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(54) Title of the invention: Compressor for Vehicle Air Conditioner

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Specification

1. Title of the Invention

Compressor for Vehicle Air Conditioner

2. Patent Claim

A compressor for a vehicle air conditioner having: one or a plurality of working chambers for compressing a coolant, wherein: an on-off valve is deployed in an intake-side passageway for supplying coolant to working chamber(s); and provision is made so that the coolant discharge volume is controlled by controlling the ratio of open and closed time for said on-off valve in one operating cycle time of the compressor.

3. Detailed Description of the Invention

(Field of Industrial Utilization)

The present invention relates to a compressor for a vehicle air conditioner wherewith it is possible to control the coolant discharge volume while the compression action continues.

(Prior Art)

The vane rotary compressor (hereinafter abbreviated to simply *compressor*) diagrammed in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4, for example, is known as a compressor for vehicle air conditioners. In these figures, 1 designates a compression mechanism unit contained in a housing (not shown in the drawings). This compression mechanism unit 1 has a cam ring 2 and a rotor 3. The cam ring 2, as diagrammed in Fig. 3, comprises a cylinder having a substantially elliptical cross section, the inner circumferential surface whereof is configured by a small diameter portion 2A and a large diameter portion 2B. The two end openings of the cam ring 2 are sealed by a front plate 4 and a rear plate 5. The rotor 3 is supported inside the cam ring 2, and particularly inside the

small diameter portion 2A, so that it turns freely, by these plates 4 and 5, through bearings 6A and 6B. In the rotor 3, as detailed in Fig. 3, four slits 8 are formed in the axial dimension thereof, which slits 8 are deployed at equal intervals (of 90°) in the circumferential direction of the rotor 3. These slits 8 extend in substantially the radial direction (radiant direction), in a cross section that is oriented perpendicular to the axis. Inside these slits 8, rectangular plate-shaped vanes 9A to 9D are accommodated such that they slide freely. When the rotor 3 is turning, due to centrifugal forces and vane back pressure, the tips of these vanes 9A to 9D slide and make contact with the inner circumferential surface of the carn ring 2. Working chambers 10A and 10B are respectively demarcated by the cam ring 2, the rotor 3, and the two plates 4 and 5. The working chambers 10A and 10B are expanded and contracted by the vanes 9A to 9D and function as intake chambers or compression chambers. A pair of intake ports 11A and 11B and discharge ports 12A and 12B, which communicate respectively with coolant intake openings (not shown) and coolant discharge openings (not shown), are opened in the inner circumferential surface of the cam ring 2, separated by substantially 180 degrees in the circumferential direction. Coolant at low temperature and low pressure inducted by the intake ports 11A and 11B into the working chambers 10A and 10B is compressed inside the working chambers 10A and 10B by the turning of the rotor 3, so as to attain high temperature and high pressure, and then is discharged through the discharge openings from the discharge ports 12A and 12B which are provided with discharge valves 7A and 7B that open at a prescribed pressure. The rotor 3 is driven and stopped by the drive force transmitted from an engine via a drive belt (not shown) being transmitted or interrupted by the ON-OFF action of an electromagnetic clutch 13 (cf. Fig. 5). Thereupon. coolant at high temperature and high pressure discharged from the discharge openings of the compressor C is sent to a condenser 15 through a pipeline 14 in a refrigerating cycle like that diagrammed in Fig. 5 wherein the compressor C is incorporated. The condenser 15 cools the coolant sent thereto down to the condensation temperature, and reduces it to a liquid state at

medium temperature and medium pressure. This cooling is done by a cooling fan attached to the front of a radiator and by air cooling resulting from vehicle speed. The coolant reduced to the liquid state is sent to a liquid tank 16 and retained therein. Next, this liquid coolant is sent from the liquid tank 16 to an expansion valve 17, rapidly expanded, and, after becoming a spray at low temperature and low pressure, is sent to an evaporator 18. At this evaporator 18, while the heat of evaporation thereof is being absorbed from the surroundings by cooling fins, [the coolant] is evaporated to become a gas. The air that is cooled at this time is sent to the vehicle interior as cooled air by a fan, whereupon the vehicle interior is cooled. Then the evaporated coolant is again sent to the compressor C and compressed.

(Problems the Invention Would Resolve)

In general, however, the capacity of compressors for vehicle air conditioners is made large because of the necessity of securing cooling capability in the evaporator 18 even while the engine is turning at low speed (so-called idling time) while the vehicle is stopped. For that reason, the compression capacity becomes excessive when the vehicle is moving at high speed, and the temperature in the interior of the vehicle must be regulated by frequently and repeatedly switching the electromagnetic clutch 13 between ON and OFF to either operate the compressor C at full capacity (100% capacity) or stop it. When the electromagnetic clutch 13 is frequently switched ON and OFF in this manner during high-speed driving, the compression mechanism unit of the compressor is suddenly connected to high-speed operation from a stopped condition, for which reason large shocks are produced, the operating noise when turning ON and OFF is annoying, and the driving feeling of the driver is noticeably impaired. Furthermore, because the electromagnetic clutch 13 is frequently turned ON and OFF, wear in the surfaces subject to friction is severe, and the period of durability thereof is noticeably shortened, which is uneconomical.

Thereupon, with the Intent of resolving such problems as these, a method has been proposed wherein constrictions are provided in orifices and the like in the intake openings and intake ports 11A and 11B of the compressor to reduce coolant intake volume. However, when constrictions are provided in the intakes to the working chambers 10A and 10B and the coolant intake volume is decreased, the discharge volume (by weight) decreases, but, in order to cause the coolant which has passed through the constrictions during intake, the pressure whereof has been further lowered to a lower pressure than the normal intake pressure, to be discharged from the discharge ports 12A and 12B, it must be compressed to the set pressure at which the discharge valves 7A and 7B open, causing the compression ratio to become extremely large. As a consequence, the temperature inside the working chambers 10A and 10B becomes abnormally high, the problem of compressor fallure arises, and the problems noted earlier cannot be resolved.

(Means for Resolving Problems, and Operation Thereof)

The present invention, which was devised with a view to such problems in the prior art, resolves the problems described above by deploying an on-off valve in the passageway on the intake side which supplies coolant to the working chambers of the compressor, whereupon, by controlling the on-off time ratio for the on-off valve in one operating cycle time of the compressor, the coolant discharge volume can be controlled, with the electromagnetic clutch left ON, that is, with the compressor still operating.

(Embodiments)

The present invention is now described in terms of embodiments. Fig. 1 is a diagram of a cooling cycle wherein one embodiment of the compressor to which this invention pertains is incorporated. In this figure, 14 is a pipeline, 15 is a condenser, 16 is a liquid tank, 17 is an

expansion valve, 18 is an evaporator and 20 is a compressor relating to the present invention, the configuration and operation of the compression mechanism unit whereof is the same as in the compressor C described earlier. To the intake openings communicating with the working chambers 10A and 10B of this compressor 20, dual-port two-position electromagnetic changeover valves (hereinafter referred to simply as changeover valves) 22A and 22B are attached. Alternatively, the changeover valves 22A and 22B may be deployed midway along the pipeline 14 connecting the intake openings of the compressor 20 and the output openings of the evaporator 18. These changeover valves 22A and 22B are configured such that they may be simultaneously or selectively switched by electric signals sent from a controller built into a computer (not shown) and such that they are, respectively, fully open or fully closed.

The operation shall now be described.

Coolant inducted from the pipeline 14 via the intake openings and the intake ports 11A and 11B into the working chambers 10A and 10B is compressed by the turning of the rotor 3, and, after passing through the discharge ports 12A and 12B, the discharge valves 7A and 7B and the discharge openings, is sent to the condenser 15 via the pipeline 14. Here, when the controller detects by a sensor that the control conditions such as vehicle interior temperature and engine speed have reached set values stored beforehand in memory means in the controller, control signals are sent from the controller to the changeover valves 22A and 22B. These control signals are signals for controlling the ratio of times the changeover valves 22A and 22B are open and closed during one operating cycle time (unit time) of the compressor 20, that is to say they are duty ratio control signals. By these control signals, the coolant supply volumes to the working chambers 10A and 10B are controlled to 50%, 75%, or 25% of the [volume supplied] when the changeover valves 22A and 22B are fully open, by the opening and closing being controlled so that they are open for a time of only 1/2, 3/4, or 1/4 of one operating cycle time of the compressor 20 and closed the remainder of the time, whereby the discharge volume can be

controlled. Accordingly, by fully closing one of the changeover valves 22A and 22B and changing the duty ratio of the other, the overall discharge volume of the compressor 20 can be controlled from 0 to 50%. By fully opening one of the changeover valves 22A and 22B and changing the duty ratio of the other, moreover, it is possible to control the overall discharge volume of the compressor 20 from 50 to 100%. Furthermore, because the changeover valves 22A and 22B are either fully open or fully closed, the coolant compression ratio when fully open is the same as in a conventional compressor C wherein the constrictions described earlier are not provided, and temperature rise in the working chambers will be the same as conventionally. Also, because the compression ratio is 0 when completely closed, temperature rise in the working chambers at that time will be low. Accordingly, total temperature rise in the working chambers will be lower than conventionally even if the coolant intake volume (discharge volume) decreases. Furthermore, because the electromagnetic clutch 13 can remain ON, that is to say, connected, irrespective of how the opening and closing of the changeover valves 22A and 22B are controlled, there will be no shock or noise to disrupt the driver's driving feeling as when [the electromagnetic clutch] turns ON or OFF, and the wear in the surfaces subject to friction in the electromagnetic clutch 13 will be noticeably less than conventionally.

In the embodiment described above, a vane type rotary compressor having a pair of working chambers is described. Needless to say, however, this invention can be applied also to vane rotary compressors having only one working chamber and to reciprocating compressors or the like.

(Advantages of the Invention)

Based on the present invention as described in the foregoing, an on-off valve is deployed in the passageway on the intake side which supplies coolant to the working chambers of a compressor, whereupon, by controlling the on-off time ratio for the on-off valve in one operating

cycle time of the compressor, coolant intake volume can be controlled, and, thereby, the coolant discharge volume can be controlled. As a consequence, coolant discharge volumes can be obtained which correspond to the cooling capacity demanded, irrespective of engine speed, thereby making it possible to diminish temperature changes in the cool air blown out from the evaporator, pleasant air conditioning effectiveness can be obtained, and great energy saving effects will be realized. Also, there is no need to repeatedly turn the electromagnetic clutch (which transmits drive force from the engine to the compressor) ON and OFF in response to the temperature inside the vehicle as with a conventional compressor, and it can be left ON continually while the vehicle is being operated, wherefore no shock or operating noise occurs when ON or OFF (especially when the vehicle is being driven at high speed), and the wear in the surfaces subject to friction in the electromagnetic clutch will be noticeably less than conventionally, so the period of durability thereof will be lengthened. Furthermore, temperature rise in the working chambers can be held down to substantially the same level as or to a lower level than conventionally. These are some of the various advantages acquired.

4. Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 is a diagram of a refrigeration cycle pipeline for a vehicle air conditioner wherein one embodiment of the compressor relating to this invention is incorporated; Fig. 2(a), 2(b), and 2(c), respectively, are diagrams for explaining the relationship between the time an on-off valve is open or closed during one operating cycle time of a compressor; Fig. 3 and Fig. 4 diagram a compression mechanism unit in a vane type rotary compressor for a vehicle air conditioner, with Fig. 3 being a front elevation section therefor and Fig. 4 being a side elevation section therefor, and Fig. 5 is a diagram of a refrigeration cycle pipeline for a vehicle air conditioner wherein a conventional compressor is incorporated.

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10A, 10B ··· ··· working chambers,
14 ··· ··· pipeline (intake side passageway),
20 ··· ··· compressor,
22A, 22B ··· ··· dual-port two-position electromagnetic changeover valve (on-off valve).
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[Keys to text in drawings:]

Fig. 1

10A, 10B: working chambers

14: pipeline20: compressor

22A, 22B: changeover valves

Fig. 2

(a) → time compressor 1 cycle

⑬日本図特許庁(JP)

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②発明の名称 車輌用空調装置の圧縮機

②特 頤 昭60-170162

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1. 発明の名称

車輌用空調装置の圧縮機

2. 特許建業の期限

冷様を圧縮する単一又は複数の作動変を有する 車橋用空调装置の圧縮機において、作動室へ冷様 を供給する吸入包依路に開閉弁を設け、圧縮機の I 作動サイクルタイムにおける前起開閉弁の開閉 時間の初合を制御することによって冷様吐出量を 制御するようになしたことを特徴とする車輌用空 調装置の圧縮機。

3. 発明の詳細な説明

(建築上の利用分野)

この発明は圧縮作動を継続したままで冷線吐出 量を制御可能な車輌用空調装置の圧縮機に関する。 (健来の技術)

車輌用空間装置の圧縮機としては、例えば第3、 4図に示すようなペーン型団転圧縮機(以下、略 レて単に圧縮機と書う)が知られている。これら

の図において、1は圧縮機のハウジング(図示省 略)内に収益される圧縮機構部を示し、この圧縮 **軽偶郎 1 はカムリング 2 とロータ 3 とを有してい** る。カムリングでは、第3國に示すように、断面 略構円形の筒体からなり、その内周面が小円郎を Aと大円郎2Bとにより構成されている。 カムリ ンダ2の両崎閉口はフロントプレートもおよびり ヤプレート5により封止され、ロータるはこれら の阿プレート4、5に餡受6A、68を介しカム リング2内、特に小円部2A内で回転自在に支持 されている。ロータ3には、第3図に辞示するよ うに、その粒方向にスリット8が4条形成され、 また各スリット 8 はロータ 3 の円周方向に等間隔 (90度) で配されており、さらに各スリット8は 帕型直方向断固にてその略半径方向(放射方向) に延在している。これらのスリットを内には、頬 形板状体のペーン9人~9Dが摺動自在に収容さ れており、これらのペーン9A~9Dはロータ3 の回転時、遠心力およびペーン食圧により、各先 遊がカムリング2の内周面に宿捨する。 カムリン

グ2とロータ3と同プレート4、5とにより作動 室10A、10Bがそれぞれ面成され、各作動窟10A、 10Bはペーン 9 A~ 9 Dにより鉱船されて吸入室 または圧縮室として作用する。また、カムリング 2 の内周面には円周方向に略180 定離隔して冷跳 の吸入口(図外)および吐出口(図外)に連進す る一対の吸入ポート11人、11日および吐出ポート 12A、12Bがそれぞれ関口しており、吸入ポート 11 A、11 Bより作動室10 A、10 B内に吸入された 低温低圧の冷媒は、ロータ3の回転により作動室 10人、10B内で圧縮されて再復高圧となって所定 圧力で聞く吐出弁 7 人、7 Bを設けた吐出ポート 12A、12Bから吐出口を経て吐出される。前記ロ ータ3は図示しない駆動ベルトを介してエンジン から伝達される駆動力を電磁クラッチ18(第5図 参照)のON-OFF作動によって伝達・遮断さ れ駆動、停止されるようになっている。しかして、 前配圧縮機Cの吐出口から吐出された高温高圧の 冷域は、この圧縮線Cを組込んだ第5図に示すよ うな冷凍サイクルの配管14を介してコンデンサ15

(発明が解決しようとする問題点)

しかしながら、一般に車輌用空網装置の圧縮機は、停車中のエンジン低速回転時(所置アイドリング時)にあってもエバボレータ18の冷力を確保する必要があるためその容量を大きくしてある。このため、車輌の高速運転時には圧縮能力が過剰

そこで、このような問題点を解決すべく、圧糠 機の吸入口や吸入ポート11A、11Bにオリフィス 等の紋り部を設けて冷様の吸入量を少なくする方 法が提案された。しかしながら、作動窓10A、10 Bへの入口部に絞り部を設けて冷様吸入量を被少 させた場合、吐出量(重量)は城少するが、吸入 時に絞り部を通過して適常の吸入圧よりも更に低圧に放圧した冷談を吐出ポート12A、12Bから吐出させるためには吐出弁 7 A、 7 Bが開く設定圧まで圧縮しなければならないため、圧縮比が極めて大きくなる。したがって、作動第10A、10B内の温度が異常に高温となり、圧縮機が損傷するという問題が生じ、前述した問題点を解決することはできなかった。

(問題点を解決するための手及および作用)

この免明は、このような従来の問題点に着目してなされたもので、圧縮額の作動室へ冷域を供給する吸入側の破路に開閉弁を設け、圧縮機の1作動サイクルタイムにおける前記隔閉弁の開閉時間の割合を制御することによって、電磁クラッチをONにしたまま、すなわち圧縮機を作動させたまま、の状態で冷域の吐出量を制御できるようになし、上記問題点を解決するものである。

(実施例)

以下、この発明を実施例に基づいて説明する。 第1図はこの発明に係る圧縮機の一支旋例を組込 んだ冷凍サイクルモ示すものであり、14は配管、15はコンデンサ、16はリキッドタンク、17は膨飛弁、18はエバボレータ、20は圧縮機構部の構成および作用が前述した圧縮機でと同様なこの発縮機でもる。この圧縮機20の各作動室10人、10日と連選世切換弁(以下、地域20の各でのは対策がある。などでは対策がある。などの対策がある。などの対策がある。などは対している。などがサインとを接続する配管14の途に、は対してもよい。その対策であるいは選択からになって同時にあるいは選択的に切換えることなって同時にあるいは選択的に切換えることなって同時にあるいは選択的に切換えている。次に作用を説明する。

配管14から吸入口、吸入ボート11人、11 B を経て作動室10 A、10 B 内に吸入された冷様はロータ3 の回転によって圧縮され、吐出ボート12 A、12 B、吐出弁 7 人、7 B、吐出口を経た後、配管14を介してコンデンサ15に送られる。ここで、享頼

なお、前記実施例においては1対の作動室を有 するペーン型回転圧協機について提明したが、こ の発明は単一の作動窓を有するペーン型回転圧縮

クラッチ13の摩擦面の摩託も従来と比較すると著

しく彼少する。

の車窓内の温度およびエンジンの回転数等の錯割 御条件が予め制御装置の記憶手段に記憶されてい る設定値に達したことをセンサを介して制御装置 が検知すると、制御装置から辺換弁22A、22Bに 制御信号が発せられる。この制御信号は、圧縮機 20の1作動サイクルタイム(単位時間)の間に切 後弁22 A、22 Bが開閉している時間の割合を制御 するための信号、すなわちデューティー比例都信 号である。そして、この制御信号により切換弁22 A、22Bを、例えば第2四W、叫、叫に示すよう に、圧縮数20の1作動サイクルタイムのうちの1 / 2、 3 / 4 あるいは 1 / 4 の時間だけ開き、残 りの時間は閉じるように関閉制御することにより、 各作動室10人、10Bへの冷媒供給量を切換弁22人、 22B全路時の50%、75%、25%に製御し、もって その吐出量を制御することができる。したがって、 切換弁22人、22日のうちの一方を金別するととも に他方のデューティー比を変えることによって、 圧縮機20全体の吐出量を 0 ~50%に制御すること ができ、また、切換弁22A、22Bのうちの一方を

殿および往復動式圧縮機等についても連用可能な ことは言うまでもない。

(発明の効果)

以上説明してきたようにこの発明によれば、車 綱用空調装置の圧組織の作動室へ冷媒を供給する 吸入側の旋路に開閉弁を設け、圧縮側の1作動サ イクルタイムにおける前紀開閉弁の開閉時間の割 合を制御することによって冷様の吸入量を制御し、 もって吐出量を制御することができる。その結果、 エンジンの回転数に拘りなく要求される冷房能力 に応じた冷謀吐出量を得ることができるため、エ パポレータから吹き出される冷風の温度変化を小 さくすることができ、快速な冷房効果を得ること ができる上に省エネルギー効果も大きい。また、 従来の圧縮級におけるようにエンジンからの駆動 力を圧縮機に伝達する電磁クラッチを享定内の温 皮中エンジンの回転数に応じて繰り返しON-O FPする必要がなく、車輌運転中は常時ONにし たままにしておくことができるため、ON-OF P時 (特に車輌が高速走行中の場合) に生ずるシ

羽周昭62-29779 (4)

ョックや作動音が据くドライブフィーリングが良い上に、電磁クラッチの理像面の摩託も従来と比較して書しく城少するため耐用期間が長くなる。 更に、切損弁の開閉制御によって圧縮機への冷は 供給量をならしても、作動窓の温度上昇は従来と 略同程度またはそれ以下に抑えることができる、 といった種々の効果を奏することができる。

4. 図面の簡単な説明

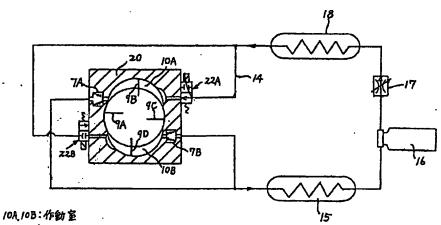
第1回はこの発明に係る圧縮機の一実施例を組込んだ車輌用空調整度の冷凍サイクルの配管図、第2回向、向、向はそれぞれ圧縮機の1作動サイクルタイムとこの間における開閉弁の期間時間の割合との関係を示す説明図、第3回および第4回は車輌用空調整費のベーン型回転圧縮機の圧縮機の圧縮機の圧縮機の圧縮機ので第3回はその正面所面図、第4回はその側面所面図、第5回は使来の圧縮機を組込んだ車輌用空調整度の冷凍サイクルの配管図である。

10 A 、10 B …… 作動窟、 14……配管(吸入側流路)、 20…… 正緒 機、

22A、22B --- 2 ポート 2 位置電磁切換弁 (開 開弁)。

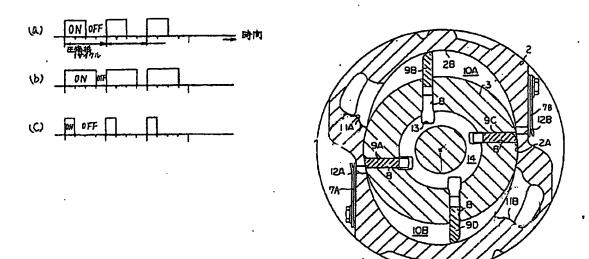
代 選 人 弁理士 有 我 軍 — 郎 (外1名)

第 1 図

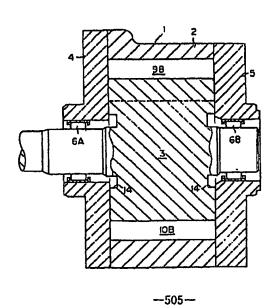


H: 配管 20: 圧縮機 22A, 22B: 切扱介

第 2 図



第 4 図



初開昭62-29779 (6)

第 5 図

